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Docket No.: SON-2024
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Motoshi ASANO et al.

Confirmation No.: 3648

Application No.: 09/774,682

Art Unit: 3692

Filed: February 1, 2001

Examiner: F. Poinvil

For: ELECTRONIC-MONEY SETTLEMENT
METHOD AND INFORMATION
PROCESSING APPARATUS THEREFOR

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.181

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant, through its undersigned attorney, hereby petitions for a Pre-Appeal Brief Conference.

Accordingly, this Petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181 is proper.

Practice and procedures within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office provide that, to request a Pre-Appeal Conference, a Request for Panel Review must be filed along with the filing of a Notice of Appeal and before the filing of an Appeal Brief. *Official Gazette Notices*, July 12, 2005.

A Final Office Action was mailed within the above-identified application on June 19, 2006.

In response to the Final Office Action, a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Panel Review was filed on October 19, 2006 along with a one-month extension, a Notice of Appeal, and a Request for Review of Final Rejection.

An Advisory Action has been mailed on November 21, 2006. In response, a telephone call was placed to the Examiner on January 5, 2007 for a status update to learn when a reply to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Panel Review will be forthcoming. During that telephone call, the Examiner explained that the papers filed on October 19, 2006 have been improperly docketed and that a pre-appeal conference will be scheduled. Presently, it is believed that there has been no mailing of a response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Panel Review and the Request for Review of Final Rejection.

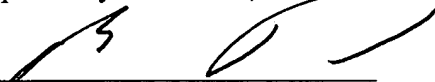
Accordingly, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. §1.181 to direct a response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Panel Review and the Request for Review of Final Rejection filed on October 19, 2006.

No fee is believed required to support this petition. See 37 C.F.R. §1.181.

However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0013. Please charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any additional costs that may be incurred.

Dated: January 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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